THE SOONER TUNER Newsletter of The Oklahoma Chapter 731 of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc. APRIL 2005

COMING EVENTS:

APRIL – The April meeting will be held on Thursday, April 21, 2005 at 9:30 AM at Norman Cantrell's shop in Lawton,

Oklahoma. There will be a mini-tech given by Dale Probst on string splicing. Norman will present a technical on bridge design and repair that will cover simple repairs; bass bridge replacement and re-capping bridges. Please notice that the meeting starts at 9:30, rather than 8:30. This is to allow people time to travel the distance to Lawton.

Directions to the shop are as follows:

From the north: When entering Lawton via I-44 take the US-281 Business exit. Exit 39B toward Lawton. There is a slight left jog in the road as it merges into 281 Business/Second Street. Proceed south on 2nd Street to Gore Blvd. (traffic light). Turn right (west) onto Gore Blvd. Travel approximately 1 mile to 11th Street (traffic light). Turn left (south) on 11th Street. Travel to SW F Avenue (traffic light) and turn right (west) .3 mile to the shop. Sign out front says "Cantrell's Piano Clinic." Address is 1511 SW F Avenue. Norman suggests that after the meeting we could go to Meers in the Wichita Mountains and have lunch.

<u>MAY</u> – The May meeting will be held on Thursday, May 19, 2005 at 8:30 AM at the shop of Bob So Bob's shop is located at 4305 Sycamore Lane in Edmond, Oklahoma. Bob will be presenting a techn	
"Vertical Hammer Filing and Voicing".	
^^^^^ ^^^^	·///////
HE WHO ANGERS YOU CONTROLS YOU.	
^^^^^	\^^^^
^^^^	

BUSINESS TIP:

Most of us have at least thought about taxes by now. As I was preparing my final ledger reports to send to the accountant this year I was also doing the final log of my mileage. In the past I have noted the beginning and ending odometer readings on the calendar page of my day timer. At the end of the month I would total the miles up and enter them multiplied by the mileage allowance in my books. I realized that I could set up a spreadsheet file that would do the calculations for me and save a little arithmetic time.

Most spreadsheet programs are similar in that they use cells to enter data and you can program formulas to do the math calculations by entering cell addresses rather than entering specific data each time. I began by placing the titles across the top of the page: Month: Begin: End: and Total Miles. Beneath the month I entered numbers for each day of the month. Under total miles in the first cell I programmed it to subtract the beginning miles from the ending miles. I copied this formula in all the cells in the Totals column. At the bottom I skipped a line and entered a formula to add all the totals together. This was my total miles driven. I skipped a line and entered a formula that multiplied the total miles by this year's mileage allowance of 40.5 cents. The beauty of the spreadsheets is that they do all the calculations immediately. If I enter the mileage for the first day it posts in the Totals column, updates the Total Miles Driven and updates the dollar figure at the same time.

for each day's mileage. Using this system I am much more efficient.
Norman Cantrell, RPT Lawton, Oklahoma
^^^^
NOTHING RUINS THE TRUTH LIKE STRETCHING IT.
^^^^
TECH TIP:
Vertical actions that are difficult to remove and reinstall: You might appreciate this bit of information. DON'T change the position of the action support bolts to make the action easier to remove. Instead, modify the action nose/retaining bolts, where the action bracket retaining forks hold the action in place, by forcing them upwards a bit.
After removing the action without changing the action support bolts (it can be done with the aid of hammer shank pliers and some tugging), use a regular claw hammer or such, and bend the offending bolts upwards by hitting them. Or use the handle of an extension-tuning lever by sliding the handle onto the nose bolt, and bend the offending bolts upwards.
After a few attempts you will have them in just the right place, not too loose, and not too tight, allowing the reinstallation and future removal of the vertical action an easier task.
Keith McGavern, RPT Shawnee, Oklahoma
^^^^
COMPASSION IS DIFFICULT TO GIVE AWAY BECAUSE IT KEEPS COMING BACK.
^^^^^^

In the past I had to enter the mileage into a calculator for each day and perform each of the subsequent steps

HELP NEEDED?!?!?!?

Are you often looking for lost paperwork? Do you find yourself losing those little scraps of paper with your customer's address and phone number? Do you try to compute your monthly income only to discover you've lost some of the data you need to compile? Have you ever considered setting up your customer list on a database? Do some of your tuning clients ask that you contact them when it is time for their next tuning, but you are not sure how to track this? When tax time rolls around each year, are you digging through drawers and shoeboxes looking for receipts?

I have heard many of you voice these problems and express a desire for help. In June, my daughter, Michelle Siebert, is starting a business to help people organize their businesses and/or their lives. She will be working with small businesses and people who are self-employed. If you are interested in talking with her to see if she can help you, please feel free to contact her at 844-7581 or 640-8682. She has a strong background in Word,

Barbara Bonham Newsletter Editor	
^^^^^	^^^^
^^^^	

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Excel and QuickBooks and is looking forward to this new venture.

Spring is here! The trees are budding, the grass is growing, and hopefully, very soon, our customer's pianos will be going sharp! Isn't it amazing how much we depend on humidity change to boost our tuning calls? I suppose there are a lot of service-oriented businesses that thrive on weather change and conditions. For instance, any lawn and garden business, fishing, boating or any shops dealing with outdoor activities, should be doing well right now. I wonder how many Body Shop owners pray for hailstorms in the spring, and icy roads in the winter. Every season opens the door for another opportunity for us. Besides pitch fluctuation, we get to deal with sticking keys and sluggish actions in the summer, and loose tuning pins, loose hammers, and an assortment of clicks and rattles in the wintertime! Aren't we lucky?!?!? These are great business opportunities. So, let's get those key easing pliers and bottles of Protek and go to work.

Bob Scheer, RPT
Edmond, Oklahoma

President – Bob Scheer Vice President – Ben Davis Secretary – Keith McGavern Treasurer – Gary Bruce Newsletter Editor – Barbara Bonham

^^^^^

"All expression of opinion and all statements of supposed fact are published on the authority of the author as listed and are not to be regarded as expressing the view of this chapter or the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc. unless such statements or opinions have been adopted by the chapter or the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc."